

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT Shipbuilding in Budapest

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1. In the Ghiurgiu-Dej (Ganz) Shipyard, work continues on the series 1,100-ton ships destined for Soviet use. However, vessel [] completes the Soviet requirements in so far as reparations are concerned and all hulls from [] are built against payments.
2. In view of this understanding, the shipyard has undertaken to provide the USSR with 50 vessels in this series over a 3-year period at a rate of 17 vessels a year. However, because of the steel shortage and other construction difficulties, the USSR has now agreed to accept the reduced number of 14 vessels for 1953.
3. In order to produce these 14 vessels the production capacity of the shipyard will be taxed to the full. Partial relief is expected by the use of pre-assembly methods and more welding. In addition to the normal slipways, these vessels are also being built under the gantry crane behind the outfitting berth. It is intended to slide them over the proper slipways for launching. After launching complete outfitting takes only an average of 14 days.
4. It is because of this forced production that the construction of the new 2,000-ton Mashart vessel was stopped. An additional reason is that it was found that the plan to use for its construction a large number of old plates destined for a prewar ship which, in the meantime, have been stored near the electrical workshop, was impracticable, because the old plates were measured and out for rivetted constructions whereas the new plans call for a large amount of welding and the plates were therefore unsuitable.

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